



Press Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Eileen Figueroa
(833)528-4661

**FORWARD LATINO APPLAUDS UNANIMOUS PASSAGE OF WISCONSIN AB 822 BY COMMITTEE
AND CALLS FOR FULL ASSEMBLY VOTE**

Bill addresses pressing need for more workers as state battles historic labor shortage!

Franklin, WI – Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan service and advocacy organization headquartered in Franklin, Wisconsin, applauds today's unanimous committee vote on Assembly Bill 822. The bill which now goes to the full Assembly, if passed by the full legislature and signed into law by Governor Tony Evers would allow the state to issue occupational credentials to recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

National President Darryl Morin issued the following statement:

"As Wisconsin continues to endure the negative effects of its extreme workforce shortage, Forward Latino applauds the unanimous passage of AB 822 by the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform. This bill if passed into law will allow Wisconsin's recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), to receive state issued occupational credentials if otherwise qualified, enabling them to fully participate in Wisconsin's workforce. We thank Chair Sortwell for his timely scheduling of the hearings on the bill and for scheduling today's vote. We also thank lead author Representative John Macco (R) and co-author Representative Sylvia Ortiz (D) for their bipartisan approach on this legislation.

Given the remaining time left in this legislative session, we encourage the Speaker to schedule AB 822 for a floor vote at the first opportunity. We also ask the Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism to take up its companion bill for their immediate consideration.

We also call upon all Wisconsinites to contact their State Representatives and Senators at (800)362-9472 and ask them to support AB 822 and its Senate Companion bill. AB 822 is supported by various chambers of commerce, trade unions, businesses, healthcare, and school systems from across the state."

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers affiliates to inspire and engage communities, strengthen our democracy, improve the lives of working families, protect the environment, and stand up for equality and civil rights. Forward Latino cultivates, trains, and supports a diverse national network of Latina/o/x community leaders addressing the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century. Forward Latino has members and affiliates across 29 states. Learn more at www.forwardlatino.org.

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